

## Minutes of the Oconto Utility Commission held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

“Unapproved”

- 1.) Call meeting to order by President Schreiber at 5:30 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call Members Present: Al Schreiber, Brian Vandenlangenberg, & Earl Uhl. Absent/Excused: Ron Filz & Steve VanCampenhout. Others Present: Jeremy Wusterbarth.
- 3.) Approval of agenda: **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenlangenberg to approve of the agenda as presented.** **3 ayes M/C**
- 4.) Approval of meeting minutes from 10/03/2017: **Motion by Vandenlangenberg second by Uhl to approve of the meeting minutes from 10/03/2017 as presented.** **3 ayes M/C**
- 5.) Public Input: Plans for McDonald Street are in the plotting process. Once they get plotted and put together Jeremy will bring to the next meeting for review so everyone can see what the progress is. Hoping to go ahead with the bidding process in January 2018 and open bids the end of February 2018 to get competitive pricing.
- 6.) Correspondence:
  - a.) WWTP Upgrades Update: The aeration basins have been stalled, there was an issue early on with the numbers being high. Normally they average 1 to 3 and they were up to 7 to 10. It was assumed that this would happen and it will take a little time for this to settle out when you change a system in that way. In 4-5 weeks the numbers are hoped to be back down to where they should be. Everything is working properly now and it is operating more efficiently. In 6 months to a year we should have a better view of this and be able to see the changes in energy consumption. Milakovich had the roofs completed in three to four days and everything looks good.
  - b.) Electrical Costs: The WWTP is operating more efficiently. Electrical costs are down from prior years. We have a better handle on the sludge process. Water usage is cut almost in half by recapturing water used in the plant during the treatment process.
  - c.) WWTP Monthly Flows: Not a big difference from last year to this year. Septic haulers were down a bit from last year and there was minimal change in the Townships. Septic haulers will decrease in coming years with the expansion of water treatment, a lot of septic holding tanks will no longer be used, but will pick up on the Township side.
  - d.) Septic Hauler Comparison: Not much change, remaining consistent.
  - e.) Utility Report: All 36 meters have been installed in the new apartment buildings on Howard Lane.
  - f.) Frozen Lateral Update: Have been checking frost levels around the city. They are about 2 to 4 feet. Ten people are on the run/drip list. Mott Street is the main problem area as it is every year due to shallow water laterals. Will continue checking on a weekly basis and add customers to the list if needed. To educate homeowners, an article was put in the in the Tuesday newspaper regarding frozen laterals and ways to prevent it.
  - g.) Well #7 Radium Update: DNR informed us that we can put Well #7 back online. The numbers look good. Running about a week now.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
  - a) Approve 2018 Septic Hauler Agreements: Received all of the septic hauler agreements back with the insurance certificates. No need for a water rate increase this year. 2019 may need a Simple Rate increase. Will review and assess after auditors reports. **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenlangenberg to approve of the 2018 Septic Hauler Agreements as presented.** **3 ayes M/C**
  - b) Possible Employee Retirement: Steve Woodworth may be retiring this year at the end of May 2018. Need to look to replace him. Possible for Steve to stay part time as a consultant. He would stay at his current rate of pay, but he would lose his benefits until we can find someone to replace

him. We will know more by the end of January 2018, so we would have time to advertise for about 3-4 weeks and find a good fit for the position.

- c) Cell Towers: Scherer Ave and Evergreen Road – About a year ago a wireless planning LLC, who is a consultant for the cell companies/communication companies came to Oconto looking for tower sites as the subcontractor for the service provider. They allow service providers such as Cellcom and AT&T to use their towers and charge them rent. They want to put towers on Scherer Ave and Evergreen Road right next to the existing towers. We turned down their offer. Since that time they communicated with two homeowners in Oconto, on Scherer Ave and Evergreen Road close to the existing towers, looking to put their towers on the homeowner's properties and pay them rent. This would be a financial hardship for Oconto Utility as Cellcom would leave and possibly AT&T, as well as any future communications. It would also restrict potential growth and is an eyesore for the city. The corral systems that are on our current towers needs to be updated. This will ensure that there is adequate space for the current and any future communications. **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenglantenberg to the City of Oconto to deny the request from Wireless Planning, LLC for a proposed 145' monopole at 148 Evergreen Road and a 155' monopole on the west side of Scherer Avenue near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street as it will have a direct revenue impact to the Oconto Utility Commission and install new corral to the water tower if needed.** 3 ayes M/C
- d) Odor Problem at Dockside: Raoul from the Dockside thinks odors are coming from the City's water/sewer system. Grease traps and venting system are causing odor problems in his building. His building was inspected, on the roof it was noticed that odor is coming from grease trap and vent. An odor log was put in to prove that the smell is not coming from the Oconto Utility's system. Odors spike during cleaning times after lunch, dinner rushes, and nightly cleaning. Ron Filz is installing charcoal ventilation system to help take away those odors. The odor logs prove that the cost of this ventilation system is Raoul's burden and not Oconto Utility Commission's.

- 8.) Approval of Accounts Payable from September 1st to September 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$213,835.92; October 1st to October 31st, 2017 in the amount of \$329,373.98; November 1st to November 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$182,762.42; and December 1st to December 31st, 2017 in the amount of \$185,570.69. **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenglantenberg to approve September 1st to September 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$213,835.92; October 1st to October 31st, 2017 in the amount of \$329,373.98; November 1st to November 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$182,762.42; and December 1st to December 31st, 2017 in the amount of \$185,570.69.**

3 ayes M/C

- 9.) Revenue & Expenditure Guidelines from 2017: Looking to be in line with where we want to be. After we receive and review the auditor's reports we will have a clearer view. **Motion by Vandenglantenberg second by Uhl to approve of the Revenue & Expenditure Guidelines from 2017 as presented.** 3 ayes M/C

- 10.) Next meeting date & time: January 29<sup>th</sup> or February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

- 11.) Adjournment: **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenglantenberg to adjourn @ 6:20 p.m. 3 ayes M/C**

Meeting minutes submitted by:  
Brittney Bickel  
Utility Clerk